National Parks and Widlife Sanctuaries

375. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI, Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of National Parks and Wild life Sanctuaries in the country;

(b) the number of National Parks and game sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) whether the Central Government and the State Governments have evolved any mechanism to monitor the results of the protection efforts in the National Parks and game sanctuaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z R. ANSARI) : (a) There are 58 National Parks and 254 wildlife sanctuaries in the country at present .

(b) There, are 11 National Parks and 31 wildlife sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Some of the mechanisms evolved by the States and Central Governments to monitor the results of the protection efforts in the National Parks and Game Sanctuaries are given below :

(i) A survey of the Management of all national parks and sanctuaries has been taken up by Central Government. Guidelines for the preparation of management plans of wildlife reserves have been drawn up and circulated to all States for U.Ts.

(ii) Regional Representatives of Indian Board for Wildlife, the Director, Wildlife Preservation and the four Regional Deputy Directors, Wildlife, of the Government of India are periodically deputed to visit certain national parks and wildlife sanctuaries and to submit their reports with regard to progress in this matter.

(iii) Meetings, of the Indian Board for Wildlife and the Standing Committee of Indian Board for Wildlife are held periodically and the representatives of States| UTs alternatively are invited to submit the progress report with regard to protection efforts made in their respective States | UTs.

(iv) Indian Board for Wildlife Award for best managed wildlife Reserve is given by the Central Government periodically on the basis of efforts made to conserve wildlife in that particular reserve.

(v) The Chief Wildlife Wardens of States and Union Territories make their own inspection of park and sanctuaries and keep the Director of Wildlife preservation, Government of India informed about the progress made in development of such areas.

(vi) Honorary Wildllike Wardens and local army commanders who are the members of State Wildlife Advisory Boards also submit their reports and|or observations in respect of development of national parks and sanctuaries they visit.

Noise pollution

376. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that noise pollution is on the increase in the country specially in Delhi; and

(b) which is the noisiest area/place so far detected in the country and re medial steps taken/proposed including studies conducted/initiated through out the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) According to the surveys conducted, noise levels are high in certain localities of metropolitan cities including Delhi. The areas of heavy traffic movement in these cities are the noisiest with noise levels, exceeding 85 decibels during peak hours of traffic.

Improvement in road and traffic movement, restriction on use of loud horns, regulated movement of heavy vehicles and publicity campaign are